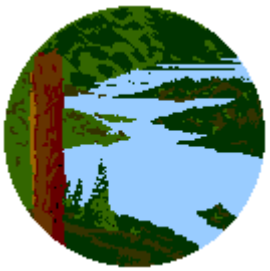
Part I:
Introduction



Goals for Habitat Restoration

The purpose of the Chehalis Basin Plan for Habitat Restoration is to develop habitat project lists and establish priorities for individual actions in Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 22 and 23 that increase the ability of habitat to fully sustain healthy populations of salmon.[1] There are three goals guiding this Plan in accomplishing this task. These are to:

1. Contribute to the biological diversity of salmon stocks within the State of Washington;
2. Concentrate efforts on those subbasins within WRIAs 22 & 23 that have the greatest quantity of fish habitat; and
3. Identify and rank general preservation, restoration, and data gap actions within subbasins that lead to the overall goal.

Strategies for Habitat Restoration

The path for making the three goals happen in this Plan lies with its strategies. The Plan relies on a two-part strategy to guide the development of future habitat project lists.

The first strategy compares all 34 subbasins in the WRIAs with one another to reveal their relative capacity for meeting Goals 1 and 2. The result of this comparative effort, based upon a set of objective criteria, is a list of high, medium, and low priority subbasins. The practical outcome of this list reveals which subbasins in the WRIAs will give the "biggest bang for the buck" for habitat restoration in accordance with the Plan goals. A summary of the subbasins by priority follows in Table 1 on the next page.

[1] The definition of "salmon" in this report includes all species of the family Salmonidae that are capable of self-sustaining, natural production. RCW 77.85.010(7).

Table 1: Prioritization of Chehalis Watershed Subbasins into High, Medium, and Low Priorities based on contribution to the biological diversity or salmonid stocks and greatest quantity of fish habitat.

High Priority Subbasins	Medium Priority Subbasins	Low Priority Subbasins
Chehalis River Mainstem	Upper Chehalis River – upstream of PeEll	Porter Creek
Grays Harbor Estuary	Johns River	Cedar Creek
Satsop River	Cloquallum River	Stearns Creek
Humptulips River	Elk Creek	Bunker Creek
Wynoochee River	Mox Chehalis River	Rock Creek (near Crim Creek
S. Fork Chehalis River	Delezene Creek	Salzer Creek
Skookumchuck River	Rock/Williams River	Newman/Vance Creek
Newaukum River	Garrard Creek	Workman Creek
Black River	Lincoln Creek	Independence Creek
Hoquiam River	Scatter Creek	Dillenbaugh Creek
Wishkah River	Elk River	Newskah, Charley, O'Leary, Stafford, Indian, Chapin Creeks

The second strategy focuses on Goal 3; that is, having a comprehensive list of prioritized restoration, preservation, and data gap actions for each subbasin. These actions in the list are outcome-based, which are useful for measuring the impact and

evaluating the success of future projects. Again, the plan relies on a high, medium, and low prioritization scheme to rank the relative importance of the action step at accomplishing habitat restoration within the subbasin. The complete list of these strategies by subbasin follows in Part II of the Plan.

The process for developing the goals and strategies for this plan was a complex and time-consuming effort for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Appendix A in the Plan recounts the entire process used by the TAG as well as its relationship to Chapter 77.85 RCW, the Salmon Recovery Act. This is an important section for the reader for making the link between the Plan goals and the action steps under each subbasin.

Using the Plan

The Chehalis Basin Plan for Habitat Restoration is a unique two-way tool for developing habitat project lists.

For the Project Planner

The Plan is a useful resource for citizens, community groups, cities, counties, state agencies, and tribal governments for developing habitat restoration projects in WRIAs 22 and 23. Project planners can take advantage of the scientific research used in preparing the Plan to create successful, well thought out projects that "hit the mark" for habitat restoration. It is important to keep in mind that the Plan not only guides the development of habitat project lists eligible for funding under the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, but may prove useful in pursuing funding from other state, federal, and non-profit sources.

For the Project Reviewer

The Chehalis Basin Partnership Technical Review Team (TRT) will find the Plan indispensable in compiling habitat lists as provided under RCW 77.85.050. The strategy enables the TRT to evaluate projects submitted for inclusion on the list using fair and objective criteria. This in turn successfully communicates to the

Salmon Recovery Funding Board or other funding sources that the habitat project list is part of a coordinated plan to recover salmon in WRIAs 22 and 23.

Finding Information in the Plan

The simple format of the Plan facilitates its use by the project planner and members of the TRT.

- Are you interested in learning how a subbasin in WRIA 22 or 23 rates relative to the habitat restoration goals? Use the summary list in Table 1 or the individual subbasin profile in Part II to look this information up.

- Use the individual subbasin profile alphabetically listed in Part II to discover the type of restoration, preservation, or data gap steps important for habitat restoration. For instance, to find out what are the recommended restoration actions for addressing Floodplain Conditions limiting factors in the Newaukum River Subbasin, first turn to the Newaukum River Subbasin matrix. Scan down the Limiting Factor column (first one on the left) until you find "Floodplain Conditions." Next, scan across the top of the matrix to find "Restoration Actions" (third from left). Now, moving in lines right of "Floodplain Conditions" and down from "Restoration Actions", the box where the two lines intersect lists contain recommended restoration actions.

- Need to learn about how to submit a potential project for funding consideration by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board? Turn to Part III to understand how the process works. There is also a copy of the application form necessary to enter projects into the Habitat Restoration Project List database.

A Final Note about the Plan

It is important to keep in mind that the Chehalis Basin Plan for Habitat Restoration is a work-in-progress. A lesson learned by the TAG in compiling this first version of the Plan is that the completeness of scientific data for WRIAs 22 and 23

still has a long way to go. A review of the planning process described in Appendix A shows that wide-scale data gaps affected the TAG's ability to use a more complex array of attributes to compare subbasins. A glance at the matrixes under subbasin profiles likewise shows a plethora of data gaps.

Clearly, as projects fill these data gaps, priorities between and within subbasins could change. It is essential for the entire habitat restoration process that data collection becomes an ongoing priority as much as any project generating physical change. As data becomes universal for subbasins equally, it will be important for the TAG to revisit the plan annually to gauge its effect on habitat restoration priorities.